

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04942 260715 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-12 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 018780

R 260330 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9174

USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4942

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP, 20-25 MARCH 1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON FROM CAN THO DTD MAR.
25, 1973 RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0086

1. SUMMARY: THE BATTLE FOR ENTRY POINTS HAS BROKEN OUT ANEW. THE MOST SERIOUS VC/ NVA ATTACKS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED IN NORTHERN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE. THE PRECIPITATE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM TRI TON HAS SHAKEN ICCS REGION VII BUT OTHER TEAMS IN THE REGION ARE CONTINUING " OBSERVATIONS." THE GVN HAS STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO SECURE ITS HOLD ON POPULATION IN AREAS SUBJECT TO VC INFLUENCE. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, GVN OFFICIALS ARE DRAWING UP VILLAGE ELECTION SCHEDULES. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: THE VC/ NVA MOUNTED AN OFFENSIVE LAST WEEK TO SEIZE THE HONG NGU- CAI CAI AREAS AS A PORT OF ENTRY FOR RESUPPLY. THE COMMUNISTS COMMITTED TWO, POSSIBLE THREE, REGIMENTS UNDER NVA 6 TH DIVISON CONTROL. ARVN HAS SUPPLEMENTED THE TWO REGIMENTS FACING THE NVA WITH AN ADDITIONAL BATTALION OF 9 TH DIVISION AND AN ARMORED CAVALRY TROOP. THE AMOUNTY OF FORCES COMMITTED BY BOTH SIDES IN THE HONG NGU- CAI CAI AREA IS GREATER THAN IN THE CEASEFIRE OFFENSIVE WHEN ARVN REPULSED A SIMILAR NVA ATTACK. THE NVA PROBABLY HAS GREATER RESERVES NOW THAN IT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 04942 260715 Z

DID IN THE EARLIER ACTION WHICH WAS PART OF A COUNTRY- WIDE OFFENSIVE.

3. IN SIMILAR ATTEMPTS TO OPEN SUPPLY ROUTES THE VC/ NVA CONTINUES TO MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT BY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND HARASSMENTS AROUND TRI TON, HA TIEN AND THE AN XUYEN- BAC LIEU COASTAL BORDER AREAS. THE VC/ NVA MAY BE SEEKING A COASTAL ENTRY POINT IN THE LATTER TWO AREAS. MG NGHI, MRIV COMMANDER, IS CONFIDENT THE GVN CAN CONTINUE TO DEFEAT VC/ NVA EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ENTRY POINTS AS IT DID IN THE CEASEFIRE OFFENSIVE. HE HAS POSITIONED SUFFICIENT FORCES IN EACH THREATENED AREA TO MEET WHAT WE BELIEVE THE VC/ NVA ARE PRESENTLY CAPABLE OF MUSTERING.

4. ICCS/ JMC: THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ABANDONED TRI TON MARCH 23 WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH THEIR CANADIAN AND INDONEASIAN COLLEAGUES. THE UNEXPECTED MOVE ANGERED REGION VII CANADIAN ICCS OFFICERS. THE ICCS PRESENCE IN HONG NGU, WHERE THERE IS NO JMC, AND IN TRI TON IS TENUOUS BUT CANADIANS AND INDONEASIANS AT BOTH REGIONAL ICCS HEADQUARTERS HAVE EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO KEEP THEIR TEAMS IN PLACE.

5. OTHER REGION VII TEAMS ARE CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND " OBSERVATIONS"-- FIFTY- TWO COMPLETED OR UNDER WAY AS OF MARCH 25. REGION VI ICCS REMAINS DORMANT. THE IMPENDING DISSOLUTION OF THE FPJMC WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME OF THE STEAM OUT OF ICCS. THE US JMC HAS GIVEN THE ICCS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MEASURE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT. IF THE PRG DEPARTS AS EXPECTED, THE ICCS WILL LIKELY BE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT INVESTIGATING INCIDENTS IN AREAS SUBJECT TO VC/ NVA ATTACKS BY FIRE.

6. GVN ACTIVITY: (A) POPULATION CONTROL: THE GVN IS PLANNING TO RELOCATE UP TO 20,000 PEOPLE IN FIVE PROVINCES TO MORE SECURE AREAS. PLANS CALL FOR RELOCATING SMALL CLUSTERS OF FAMILIES SCATTERED ABOUT IN marginally secure areas. THE GVN WILL MOVE THEM A FEW KILOMETERS AT MOST INTO AREAS MORE CLOSELY UNDER GVN CONTROL, IN THE VICINITY OF PUTPOSTS OR ALONG SECURED ROADS. REFUGEE BENEFITS WILL BE PAID.

(B). CHAU DOC OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO CARE FOR CAMBODIAN REFUGEES FLEEING INTO VIETNAM. ALMOST 10,000 CAMBODIANS HAVE ARRIVED IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. A SLOW- DOWN IN SHIP TRAFFIC ON THE MEKONG THWARTED GVN PLANS TO SEND MORE CAMBODIANS BACK TO PHNOM PENH LAST WEEK.

(C). VILLAGE ELECTIONS: THE GVN ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO HOLD VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN ALL VILLAGES DUE TO HAVE ELECTIONS IN 1972 AND 1973. PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN TO PLAN FOR ELECTIONS IN THE MAY TO AUGUST PERIOD AND ARE CURRENTLY DRAFTING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 04942 260715 Z

SCHEDULES. KIEN TUONG WILL HOLD THE FIRST ELECTIONS. IN A

RECENT STATEMENT, MG NGHI IMPLIED HE WISHED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER
OF ELECTIONS TO THOSE VILLAGES HE IS SURE THE GVN
CONTROLS. THE DEMOCRACY PARTY WILL COMPETE BUT IN SECURE AREAS
WILL PROBABLY PERMIT NON- COMMUNIST CANDIDATES TO RUN. ACCORDING
TO SOURCES IN BA XUYEN, THE DP MAY SEEK TO MONOPOLIZE VILLAGE
COUNCIL SEATS IN LESS SECURE AREAS.
WISNER UNQUOTE
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON04942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaigftp.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971224
Subject: WEEKLY SITREP, 20-25 MARCH 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT
To: EA
FRANCE
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005